

SAPC-12137
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14 January 1957

MEMORANDUM TO: Project Director
THROUGH : Contracting Officer
SUBJECT : Trip to Aerial Reconnaissance Laboratory (ARL) WADC,
Wright-Patterson AF Base, Ohio.

1. During the period 7 to 9 January 1957 the undersigned visited ARL for the following purposes.
 - A. Discuss time and need of FOG equipment.
 - B. Attend meeting at ARL. Subject discussed "Thin Base Film".
 - C. Obtain information relating to exploitation of Q-56 material.

2. A. On 8 January 1957 I talked to Lt. Col. R. Herrington and Capt. Weininger regarding allocation of "B" cameras to FOG. Their feelings were although they have three A-1's and three A-2's they can support at least one B camera by February 1957. Herrington and Weininger want a "B" camera for training and familiarization purposes. I informed them the FOG would have an opportunity in the interim to get acquainted with "B" cameras and their operation through observation and working with Hycon crews as they field and flight test the cameras [redacted]. Herrington felt this procedure is not adequate. I informed them we would attempt to turn over to them No. 8 camera. I emphasized however that this was not a commitment on our part. We would not be able to give a decision until operational requirements and delivery schedules of components and cameras are firmly established.

B. I again mentioned confusion existing at this time regarding number of P & E rectifiers desired by FOG. Russ stated they want one (1) rectifier at this time and I should pass this information on to [redacted] Russ, like [redacted] is concerned with the time wasted in getting rectifier into production.

Action: I informed [redacted] on morning of 11 January 1957 of this conversation. [redacted] will firm up other Services, need and take action to present consolidated requirement to P & E.

C. Regarding photographic ground support equipment Capt. Weininger (Sid Brewer's assistant) indicated he received Hycon's latest proposal pertaining to this type of equipment. He had reviewed it, cut some items out and returned it to Hycon for action. In the course of the discussion Weininger informed me SAC [redacted]

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will operate from one base. He feels from a photo standpoint SAC will have enough test and ground support equipment to support an operational base and a training site.

3. The meeting held at ARL on 8 January 1957 - Subject: Thin Base Film; Was attended by representative of Eastman Kodak, Hq USAF, Hq ARDC, SAC, TAC, Army and ARL. Some of the people attending were: [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Ed Green, [redacted] all of EK; Col., 25X1
Art Smith, Maj. Leroy Williams, AFRD Hq USAF; Maj. Watson, Hq ARDC.
Mr. Woodford, ARL, acted as chairman of the conference.

Representatives of Eastman-Kodak stated they had a thin base film which they developed and is called SO 1188. Then through a question-answer method brought out physical and emulsion characteristics. They mentioned some work was accomplished at EK in line of running material through some cameras and processors. They mentioned problems of shipping and storage. [redacted] a film emulsion specialist at EK gave some figures relating to storage life of the film. One figure he gave was new to me. He stated film stored at "78° F or below had a life of about 12 months." The figure we received from EK was 12 to 15 months. We have however been using 12 months for our calculation. EK established that the primary problem with this type of film is one of tracking and that the problem existed in both the camera and processing. During the morning session it was also revealed by Maj. Leroy Williams AFRD, Hq USAF that his office some two years ago submitted a paper stating a requirement existed for thin base film within the Services. After looking at the paper it was established this was not an official paper. As a result of this meeting the requirement will be revised and submitted through official channels in order to establish an authority through which a task or project can be formulated to test thin base film.

The afternoon session consisted mostly of discussions on how to go about testing the thin base film. Very briefly the methodology proposed was cumbersome, time consuming, expensive and pathetic. It was estimated by personnel of ARL that if they undertook the evaluation of thin base film it would take them at least 2 years to come up with a report. If they gave it to a contractor they estimated a time of 8 to 10 months. My estimate for contractor time would be 12 months. [redacted] who 25X1 would have prime responsibility for planning the test program propose to run thin base through all standard cameras, processors and printers. Camera tests would be on the bench and in flight. Film would be run through while cameras are in various positions (i.e. vertical, right oblique and left oblique) to determine tracking problems. Film would be tested in environmental chamber, etc. In all cases fresh film would be used for each test. After this time and expense a recommendation would be made as to whether existing standard equipment could be used, whether they have to be modified and in what manner, or the need to discard standard equipment and develop new equipment. In other words the 2 years or 8 to 10 months stated previously in this paragraph would only be the starting point for the development of hardware to utilize thin base film. All this time and expenditure would be spent to give the Services answers to questions this Project may have already accumulated.

Recommendation - An effort should be made to determine what type of data is needed by the Aerial Reconnaissance Lab. This Project and FOG could then offer data which has been accumulated and is available for release. Our data could be released through FOG or Hq. SAC.

4. A. An attempt was made to get detailed data pertaining to exploitation of [redacted] recordings. Unfortunately the one person [redacted] who handles the [redacted] was out on the West Coast, I did talk to Mr. McCormick and Maj. Wheeler who are respectively Chief and Ass't Chief, All Weather Search Section. Mr. McCormick did pass on two items of interest. One, [redacted] visited Hq SAC about 5 or 6 weeks ago to get information pertaining to interpretation of [redacted] SAC told [redacted] they still did not know how to fully exploit [redacted]. Two, he thought all written reports dealing with [redacted] had been forwarded from Lockbourne AF Base to Hq. SAC.

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C. I saw a classified report in the All Weather Search Section written by [redacted]. It is a short version of the report produced by SAC at Lockbourne AF Base, Ohio. I found it an interesting report.

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Action: I gave Lt. Col. Geary all information needed, while he was at Project Hdqs. 11 Jan. 1957 and asked him to get it for us as soon as possible.

[redacted]

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SA/PC/DCI: [redacted] (1/14/57)

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